

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

December 31, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

We write to thank you for your support of Governor Polis' request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the Marshall Fire, and reiterate our commitment to working closely with your administration in providing swift recovery assistance to Coloradans. The Marshall Fire has wreaked havoc throughout Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties—destroying over 600 homes and businesses and forcing more than 30,000 residents to evacuate their homes throughout Superior, Louisville, Boulder County, Westminster, Arvada, and Broomfield, in addition to two hospitals in the area. This fire has destroyed the greatest number of homes in Colorado history, and we thank you for your verbal approval of the Major Disaster Declaration.

Extreme drought conditions and severe winds spurred the growth of this life-threatening fire, as it rapidly spread through densely populated suburban areas. The fire has burned approximately 6,000 acres, with wind gusts of 80 and even up to 110 miles per hour recorded. All of the homes in the Sagamore neighborhood of Superior, Colorado appear to have been burned, in addition to hundreds of other homes in Superior, Louisville and Boulder County, and including the Superior Town Hall, the Superior Marketplace shopping plaza and the Element Hotel—a simply staggering scale of this destruction. We are grateful for the efforts of the first responders who responded quickly and saved countless lives.

Typically, October marks the beginning of winter weather patterns in Colorado, yet the severe lack of snow and moisture in this area resulted in this historic and devastating fire occurring on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As fire seasons grow longer, the availability of resources to our local communities gets stretched thinner. The unprecedented nature of this emergency merits a swift and comprehensive response. Given the rapid escalation, destruction, and urgent need for support, we thank you for your approval of this request, and stand ready to assist as we continue through this process.

Thank you for your support in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress